

# THE DISTRICT MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London  
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Those who find, as I do, that Ronald B. De Waal's two volumes of Holmesian bibliography are invaluable will rejoice at the news that the third, **The Universal Sherlock Holmes**, edited by George A. Vanderburgh, will be published on the 6th January 1994. It will include all the entries from **The World Bibliography and The International Sherlock Holmes** as well as some 10,000 new entries. The format is planned as a 4 volume set with a 5th volume as index. It will be available through US, Canadian or British agents, who will take advance orders up to the 1st December 1993. As soon as I have details of these agents, and of prices, I'll pass them on.

Reported in **The Mail On Sunday** on the 7th March (and no doubt in other papers): Brigadier Nigel Stisted, great-grandson of Dr Joseph Bell, has found a cache of letters written by Arthur Conan Doyle to Bell, clearly acknowledging that Bell was indeed the original model for Sherlock Holmes. (I find the statement less interesting than the thought that Brigadier Stisted is the lucky owner of all those holograph letters from Sir Arthur...)

Shirley Purves passes on news that the tour of the heavily revised version of Leslie Bricusse's **Sherlock Holmes: The Musical** opens today at the Theatre Royal, Bristol. Robert Powell and Roy Barraclough are Holmes and Watson. The play will be at the Plymouth Theatre in August. Does anyone have any information about other venues?

Michael Cox tells me that the Folio Society will issue in June a boxed set of the short stories ("though the box says Complete stories") with an introduction by Peter Cushing and illustrations by Francis Mosley. The long stories, with an introduction by Michael himself, will appear in 1994. In May this year Constable will publish M.J. Trow's latest comedy-mystery **Lestrade and the Sawdust Ring** at £13.99. Ian Wilkes brings news that the series "Los Archives de Baker Street" (published by Valdemar, calle Augusto Figueroa 47-2, Madrid 28004, Spain) continues with **La Vida Privada de Sherlock Holmes** by Michael and Mollie Hardwick.

Russell Patterson points out that the current BBC Radio 5 series **The Unopened Casebook of Sherlock Holmes** has also given rise to a BBC book of the same title by John Taylor; it's a £3.99 paperback. Mark Hunter-Purvis has put me on to the Wordsworth Classic edition of **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes**, which contains the full text of **The Adventures, The Memoirs**, (both facsimiles from **The Strand**), **A Study In Scarlet** and **The Sign of Four**. This paperback is an astonishing bargain at just £1.00! In the same series, **The Return of Sherlock Holmes** will appear in June, and **The Casebook** in September. I recently spotted in my local Asda store **Great Stories of Sherlock Holmes** (Magpie Books, £3.99), a fat paperback containing **The Adventures, The Memoirs, A Study In Scarlet** and **The Hound of the Baskervilles**. The cover reproduces the famous "Spy" caricature of William Gillette.

SH 27 is just out, and full of books, games, posters, Persian slippers,

and all sorts of other things for sale. (Sylvian Hamilton, Hermitage, Mount Pleasant, Duns, Berwickshire TD11 3HU; phone 0361 82922.) Charles Hall's Arthur Conan Doyle medal (see DM 128) has been delayed because the die-cutters' first attempts were not up to scratch. Charles has a wide range of Holmesian memorabilia for sale, mostly of his own design: postcards, earthenware, metal figures and theatre items. Write for a list to 12 Paisley Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 7JW, or phone 031-661 2822. Joseph J. Eckrich (7793 Keswick Place, St Louis, Missouri 63119, USA) is forced to sell his collection of Holmesiana. If you're interested - and there's a lot of good stuff here - write and ask to be put on his mailing list. (The pain of having to part with his treasures must be somewhat ameliorated by his investiture into the Baker Street Irregulars in January, as "The Stock-broker's Clerk". Congratulations, Joe!)

I've now seen but not heard two of the canonical dramatisations put out by The Drama Collection and featuring Edward Petherbridge and David Peart as Holmes and Watson: **A Study In Scarlet** (DC513) and **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** vol. 2 (DC514), the latter including SCAN, FIVE, TWIS and SPEC. These tapes should be on sale at W.H. Smith, but I've yet to find copies at my local branch. Douglas Johnstone put me on to the fact that the two Harmony Gold films with Christopher Lee and Patrick Macnee as Holmes and Watson are now on sale in video shops at £10.99 each. These are **Sherlock Holmes and the Leading Lady** (Braveworld STV 2177) and **Sherlock Holmes and the Incident at Victoria Falls** (Braveworld 2178).

Geoffrey Stavert passes on a price list from a wine merchant called Insignia of Merseyside (Personalised Products Ltd), who can provide any of their items with a "Baker Street" label - or, presumably, any other of your choice. The address is Century Building, 212 Tower Street, Brunswick Business Park, Liverpool L3 4BJ. Also via Geoffrey are the following want ads. David L. Hammer (Gasogene Press, Box 1041, Dubuque, Iowa 52001-1041, USA) wants volumes 1, 2 & 3 of **The Sherlock Holmes Journal**. Colin McDowell (2 Southwold Mansions, Widley Road, London W9 2LE) is compiling for publication an anthology of literary references to Victorian dress and fashion, and would like to correspond with any of our members who might have any ideas or interest in the subject. Ms Laurel P. Davis (1213 103rd Avenue W., Duluth, Minnesota 55808, USA) wants an English pen-pal.

Derek Hinrich sends news of two overseas Holmesian societies. One is in Ekaterinburg in Siberia (where Tsar Nicholas II met his sticky end) I don't know the name of the group, but our Associate Member N. Voronov says that they are very active, producing a newspaper called **Elementarno, Watson** as well as numerous other publications. The other club is La Societe Sherlock Holmes de France: Les Quincailliers de la Franco-Midland (Grand dépôt de Paris, Thierry Saint-Joanis, 47 rue de Montmorency, 75003 Paris, France), who plan to meet our own Society's delegation in the south-west of France in September. The society was formed in January of this year, and is unconnected with The Franco-Midland Hardware Company. One of the founders is that fine artist Jean-Pierre Cagnat, whom many will remember from Switzerland.

Bradley Schaefer's article identifying Prof. Moriarty and Col. Moran as Simon Newcomb and Alfred Drayson is due to be published in **The Journal of the British Astronomical Association**. (\*Will anyone who has access to this publication, please let me know? Thanks.\*)

Recently received periodicals of interest. **Irregular Special Railway Company Newsletter** no. 4 (Antony Richards, 163 Marine Parade, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2RB). **The Pleasant Places of Florida Communication** no. 124

(Dr Benton Wood, PO Box 740, Ellenton, FL 34222, USA. **The Serpentine Muse** vol. 11 no. 3 (The Adventuresses of Sherlock Holmes, Evelyn Herzog, 360 West 21st Street, # 5A, New York, NY 10011, USA). **The Torr** no. 2 (The Poor Folk Upon the Moors, Clare Taylor, Flat 4, Gonvena House, Gonvena Hill, Wadebridge, Cornwall PL27 6DN). **The New Baker Street Pillar Box** no. 13 (The Franco-Midland Hardware Company, The Stock-broker's Clerk, 6 Bramham Moor, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants. PO14 3RU). **The School Report** no. 12 (The Priory Scholars of Leicester, Mary Hercock, 13 Gaddesby Avenue, Leicester LE3 1BN). **The Appledore Tower** vol. 2 no. 1 (Paul H. Brundage BSI, 2632 Central Court, Union City, CA 94587-3128, USA). **The Devon County Chronicle** vol. 28 no. 3/4 (The Merripit House Guests, Robert W. Hahn BSI, 2707 South 7th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081, USA). **Scuttlebutt from the Spermaceti Press** Feb. 1993 (Peter E. Blau BSI, 3900 Tunlaw Road NW # 119, Washington, DC 20007-4830, USA) (\*An invaluable source of information - I've often learned first of Holmesian events in Britain from **Scuttlebutt**\*). **The Baker Street Dispatch** vol. 3 no. 1 (Thomas Biblewski, PO Box 5503, Toledo, OH 43613, USA). **Baker Street Miscellanea** no. 70 (The Sciolist Press, Box 225, Winnetka, IL 60093, USA). **The Parallelogram** no. 8 (The Parallel Case of St Louis, Joseph J. Eckrich BSI, 7793 Keswick Place, St Louis, MO 63119, USA). **The Baker Street Journal** vol. 42 no. 4 (PO Box 465, Hanover, PA 17331, USA). **The Young Swiss Messenger** no. 3 (The Reichenbach Irregulars, Michael A. Meer, Thanweg, CH-4952 Eriswil, Switzerland) (\*The text is in both German and English\*). And of course **The Sherlock Holmes Journal** vol. 21 no. 1 - but you knew about that already.

From Peter Blau. There's to be a conference in June 1994 at Bennington College in Vermont under the title **Sherlock Holmes: Victorian Sleuth to Modern Hero**; details from Joseph A. Cutshall King, Box 304, North Bennington, VT 05257, USA). "Ship in a Bottle", the promised **Star Trek: The Next Generation** episode bringing back Data as Holmes, Geordi as Watson, and the almost-real Moriarty from "Elementary, Dear Data", was shown in the USA in January; I wonder when we'll see it here? (Peter gives it high marks.) L.B. Greenwood, author of three outstanding novel-length pastiches, was a principal speaker at Bouchercon XXIII in Toronto last year. An audio cassette of the discussion to which she contributed may be had for \$8.75 from On Site Taping, 29318 Quail Run, Agoura Hills, CA 91301, USA. Peter J. Crupe (1533 64th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219-5709, USA) offers the handsome lapel-pin (designed by Jean Upton) of the Montague Street Lodgers for \$7.00 post-paid. Christopher and Barbara Roden of the Arthur Conan Doyle Society (Ashcroft, 2 Abbottsford Drive, Penyffordd, Chester CH4 0JG) are considering setting up a Conan Doyle Amateur Press Association for informal discussion of ACD's writings: six mailings a year and a limit of 25 members. Catalogues of Holmesiana are available from Classic Specialties (Box 19058, Cincinnati, OH 45219, USA) and Sherlock, Stock & Barrel (Box 8261, Colorado Springs, CO 80933-8261, USA). A recent and major acquisition of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection at the Metropolitan Toronto Reference Library is the MS of the unpublished play **Angels of Darkness**, based on the American episode of **A Study In Scarlet** and featuring Watson but not Holmes; it was bequeathed by the late Anna Conan Doyle, widow of Adrian.

